

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Beacon Hill (Marbury Heights) Inventory Number: PG:82A-37
Address: 5905 Old Crain Highway City: Upper Marlboro Zip Code: 20772
County: Prince George's USGS Topographic Map: Upper Marlboro
Owner: Calvert, LLC Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 131, 132 Tax Map Number: 101 Tax Account ID Number: 15 4006524
Project: Joint Federal/State Wetland Permit, Beacon Hill Subdivision Agency: U.S. Army COE and Maryland DOE
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☒ yes ☐ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: PG: 82A-47

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: Weston-Sasscer's Green District

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☒ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form PG: 82A-37 and Weston Sasscer's Green Historic District form PG: 82A-47

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Description

Beacon Hill (originally Marbury Heights) is a fine example of rural Prince George's County Colonial Revival style architecture. It was built in 1899 for Alexander Marshall Marbury by local carpenter, B. Wesley Cranford and modeled after nearby Ellerslie (PG: 82A-034). A January 2007 fire badly damaged the rear kitchen wing and caused smoke and water damage to the main house. The house is in the process of restoration. The farm originally consisted of 207 acres (later reduced to 119 plus a 7 acre house lot) and in addition to the primary dwelling, includes tobacco barns, a corn crib, stable and several sheds. The barns, corn crib and one of the sheds are contributing resources. The dwelling, one contributing shed and noncontributing stable are located on the house lot. The remaining buildings are dispersed across the property (Figure 1). As well as being listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: ☒ *(Antebellum Tobacco Barn #1 only)*

Eligibility Not Recommended: ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: *House has lost integrity, is not considered individually eligible. But "Antebellum*

Jonathan Sages
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Blunt
Reviewer, National Register Program

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Date

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Date

201002525

Tobacco Barn #1 does appear to be eligible for NR.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

Properties (MIHP), Beacon Hill is a contributing resource within the Weston-Sasscer's Green Historic District (PG:82A-47).

The house and grounds are approached from Old Crain Highway by a long maple-lined lane. The lane travels uphill, circles in front of the house, and then continues west past an antebellum tobacco barn and the site of a former tenant farm complex. The house is prominently situated on top of a steep hill beside a massive white beech tree planted as a seedling by Alexander Marshall Marbury in the first decade of the 20th century. Gently sloping fallow farm fields, punctuated by intermittent stands of woodland, are found north, south and west of the house. To the southwest Beacon Hills' 119 acres adjoin the nearly 400 acres associated with Weston (PG:82A-07), while modern residential development is found east of the house and immediately south of Old Crain Highway.

Beacon Hill is a large, frame farmhouse accented with Colonial Revival style details. The house consists of a hip-roof main block, projecting side gables, and a two-bay, gable-roof, rear kitchen wing. The main block is two-and-one-half stories high and three bays wide. The otherwise square plan is augmented on the southwest corner by projecting diagonal bay. The aluminum siding recorded in the earlier survey has been removed and the walls re-sheathed with new, but historically accurate, German siding. Walls rest on unusually long, narrow, light-colored bricks.

The roof's overhanging eaves are boxed and embellished with a dentilated cornice and wide frieze on all sections including the wrap-around porch. The façade's roofline is distinguished by a dentilated, pedimented, center, cross gable. The pediment's field is embellished by decorative fish-scale shingles and fitted with an oculus window. Similar pediments, minus the oculus window, are found in the side gables. Three large corbelled brick chimneys rise from the roof of the main block while a smaller chimney extends from the ridge of the two-story kitchen wing.

Fenestration throughout the houses consists of two-over-two, double-hung sash windows, framed by wide, unmitered surrounds. The front entrance is located in the left bay of the south façade. The opening is fitted with a transom light and utilizes the same type of surround as the windows. The glazed and horizontal-panel front door is damaged and in very poor condition. A historically accurate close replica has been delivered and awaits installation.

A two-story kitchen wing projects from the rear (north) of the house and its entrance is protected by a shed-roof portico. That opening has a single-pane transom identical to that found in the front entry and a new, but period-appropriate, glazed-and-panel door. A second doorway, also protected by a shed-roof portico, is roughly centered on the rear wall and leads into the main body of the house. A bulkhead basement entrance is located near the wall's west corner and is protected by what appears to be an enclosed second-story sleeping porch.

The interior has been stripped to the studs, but several important interior elements survived the fire and remain intact. These include the paneled pocket doors separating the dining room and parlor, and the narrow-gauge, tongue-in-groove floor boards. The open-string stair case with fluted, square newel post and turned balusters also remains, as does the beaded wainscoting in the spandrel beneath the stairs case.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 2

Outbuildings

- a. A one-story, side-gable, frame storage shed is located approximately 60' north of the house. Measuring 25' x 15', it is three-bays wide and sheathed with wide-board horizontal siding. The eaves are open with exposed rafter ends. A six-over-six sash window, fitted with functional shutters, is located on either side of the centered board-and-brace door. A similar window is found in each end wall. The foundation is poured concrete. The shed's appearance suggests a construction date in the first half of the 20th century. (Contributing Resource)
- b. A frame animal shed is located approximately 80' north of the shed. It measures 25' x 20' and is open on the east side into fenced pasture. Walls are covered with vertical siding and the roof with corrugated metal. A pedestrian entrance is found in the south wall. The shed appears to date to the second half of the 20th century and was either not present or did not warrant attention when Susan Pearl surveyed Beacon Hill in 1986. (Noncontributing Resource)

Farm Buildings

Agricultural buildings are clustered in several locations across the property. The two oldest surviving structures are the antebellum tobacco barns. Both are roughly centered in an open field. Typically barns of this period were placed in breezy spot near the center of the tobacco field. Before the gasoline powered engine, it was more efficient to build barns near the tobacco than haul the tobacco a long distance to the barn (Thursby and Schomig 2008:E45).

The largest surviving building cluster is located at the far west end of the Beacon Hill property, at the terminus of the same farm lane that extends from Beacon Hill, past one of the antebellum tobacco barns and the site of a former tenant farm. This 20th-century ensemble consists of a tobacco barn, stable and double-pen corn crib. All are constructed with circular sawn lumber attached with wire nails. Their remote location, as well as the barn and corn crib's obvious accommodation for large farm machinery, show these buildings relate to the age of mechanized farming practice.

The previously mentioned tenant farm complex was located roughly 600' west of the Beacon Hill. A separate driveway connected this late-19th-century house and two outbuildings with Old Crain Highway, but a connecting farm lane allowed access to barns, fields and, when necessary, the owner at Beacon Hill

- a. Antebellum Tobacco Barn #1. Tobacco still hangs in this antebellum barn located approximately 200' west of the house. Predating the house, it was constructed when the property was part of the neighboring Weston estate. The core measures 40' x 25' with 12'-wide sheds projecting from each side. The vertical siding dates to the 20th century, but the barn's core is clearly much older. As expected in a barn of this age and continuous use, many members have been repaired or replaced, but the primary framing consists of original hand-hewn joists, sills and corner posts. The interior is vertically divided into 7 tiers and horizontally into four-foot rooms. The barn is remarkable for the presence of a rafter system that rests on tilted false plates. This early roof feature is unique to Chesapeake Tidewater area framing and rarely seen after the first quarter of the 19th century (Graham 2003:179 and Thursby and Schomig 2008:E49). The

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 3

barn is in fair condition. There is some evidence of rot and insect infestation with the shed's sills especially in need repair. (Contributing Resource)

b. Early-20th-century Tobacco Barn. The frame walls of this gable-front, center-aisle, drive-through barn rest on poured concrete piers. The roof is covered with rusted standing seam metal. It is eight rooms long and eight tiers high. An original shed extends from the north side and is in turn abutted by a series of two equipment sheds. This barn is part of an outbuilding complex situated .25 miles west of the main house. Neither this barn nor the animal barn or corn crib described below were identified in either Tamburino's 1998 survey or Pearl's 1986 study of Beacon Hill, but are briefly described in a 2005 archaeology report (Gibb 2005:29). (Contributing Resource)

c. Animal Barn. Located immediately west of the 20th-century tobacco barn, this badly dilapidated building is largely stripped of its board-and-batten siding and sections of the metal roof are missing. The foundation is poured concrete. Animal stalls are located on the lower level with room for hay storage provided above. (Noncontributing Resource due to integrity issues)

d. Corn Crib. This double-pen corn crib with center aisle has a side-gable roof and frame walls that rest on the same type of poured concrete piers used to support the nearby tobacco barn. It appears to date to the first quarter of the 20th century and is in remarkably good condition. (Contributing Resource)

e. Antebellum Tobacco Barn #2. This barn, located approximately 800' north of the house, was mentioned in both Tim Tamburino study of the Weston Sasser's Green Historic District and Pearl's earlier work on Beacon Hill. It was described as being later than antebellum Tobacco Barn #1. While the exterior siding and stripping room date to the middle of the 20th century an earlier, albeit altered, reconfigured and structurally precarious, core is found within. The interior is horizontally divided into twelve, four-foot rooms and vertically into seven tiers.

The presence a tilted false plate indicates the main hand-fashioned and pegged framing elements are roughly contemporary with Antebellum Tobacco Barn #1, and therefore probably date to the second quarter of the 19th century. This barn has experienced significant alteration that has resulted in serious structural problems. Specifically, the sills of the antebellum core have been cut along the long walls and two intermediate posts removed. This appears to have been done to accommodate ingress by trucks or tractors. The unsupported area under the plate has sagged and the posts nearest the cut in the sill have failed.

A clever feature appears to relate to the barn's reconfiguration to accommodate machinery. The two lower levels of tier poles are redesigned to be removable. Large removable pegs or tree knots are inserted into sockets in the posts. The tier poles in turn are placed hang upon the pegs. The poles, as well as the pegs, can be removed to make room below as tobacco sticks are hung in the upper part of the barn. The tiers are then replaced when equipment is removed and the hanging to commence at lowest level (Uunila 2010). (Contributing Resource)

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 4

No Longer Present

- a. The 1986 MIHP form identified a small garage on the west side of the house, next to the storage shed. It is no longer present.
- b. A 19th-century tenant house, privy and shed located west of the Beacon Hill house have been destroyed.
- c. A one-and-a-half story cabin believed to have been built as a slave quarter and later used as a tenant house, is gone.

History of Property

Originally known as Marbury Heights, Beacon Hill was constructed in 1899 for Alexander Marshall Marbury (1863-1938) and his bride, Lucy Clagett Berry Marbury (1866-1936), who was the widow of Alexander's late brother, Fendall Marbury. From her mother's side Lucy Clagett Berry (1866-1936) claimed decent from one of the region's most illustrious and wealthy families. Her cousin Thomas Clagett, VII lived at Weston, which had served as the Clagett family seat since the early 18th century (Clagett 1963: 60). Marbury also descended from a prominent planter and political family that had been in Prince George's County since at least the early-18th century. He was also the great, great nephew of United States Supreme Court Justice John Marshall. The Marburys made their new home among the rural tobacco planter elite in a neighborhood of fine old homes and distinguished residents.

Marbury established his farm with the purchase of 187 acres of land purchased from Thomas Clagett, VII of neighboring Weston. The commanding hill top house site and five surrounding acres came from Dr. Frederick Sasscer of Kingston (PG:79-13) in a land exchange. The house was constructed by B. Wesley Cranford and modeled after nearby Ellerslie (PG: 82A-034), the home of Judge Richard B. B. Chew. The activity attracted the attention of the Prince George's Enquirer, which reported in March 1899 that "*Messrs. Benjamin Cranford and Son, contractors and builders, have received a contract for building a residence for Mr. A. M. Marbury on the farm which he recently purchased near this town.*" The paper continued to report on construction delays until the newlyweds took up residence in November of that year (Pearl 1986).

Marbury was a gentleman farmer and as such left the actual physical labor of farming to his tenants. Until relatively recently two tenant houses, one of which may have first served as a slave quarter, were located on the property. Their construction pre-dated Beacon Hill/Marbury Heights but remained in use during the Marbury period. According to the 1900 census, the Marbury's closest neighbors included several farmhands, renting farmers, a cook and a domestic servant. It is very likely at least some of these hired laborers and renters were employed or living at Marbury Heights (U.S. Census Bureau 1900).

Charles Clagett Marbury (1900-1991) inherited Marbury Heights after the deaths of his parents and changed the name to Beacon Hill. Except for his service in France during World War I and to attend college at the University of Bordeaux, Johns Hopkins University, and Georgetown University, Marbury spent his entire life at Beacon Hill.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 5

Mr. Marbury entered politics and served four sessions in the Maryland House of Delegates before being elected to the State Senate in 1938. In 1941 he was appointed as a judge to the Maryland Circuit Court and in 1960 to the Maryland Court of Appeals. Judge Marbury is credited with helping to force the creation of the Fourth Appellate District which secured Southern Maryland's representation on the Court of Appeals. It was to this District judgeship Marbury was appointed. He is remembered as an advocate of individual rights and social justice. His rulings in the 60s and 70s challenged racial barriers institutionalized the legal system. As Appellate Judge he made a precedent-setting ruling in *Yopps v. State*. This 1962 decision involved the issue of a defendant's Constitutional right to be heard through legal council in summation at a nonjury trial. Later that year his decision was used as precedent in arguments before the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of *Herring v. New York*. (Maryland Court of Appeals: 1991).

Judge Marbury and his wife Kathryn "Dolly" Marbury lived at Beacon Hill until their death in 1986 and 1991 respectively. Beacon Hill then passed to their daughter, Pricilla Marbury Ryan of Chevy Chase, Maryland. The property was rented and in recent years the house not well maintained. Aluminum siding was added and the porch deteriorated. In 2007 the kitchen wing caught fire, but smoke and water damage extended to the main section. Since 2004 the property has been owned by Calvert, LLC. The house is undergoing a thoughtful restoration and will soon appear much as it did during the Marbury tenure.

Assessment of Property

Beacon Hill is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B and C.

Criterion A (Event):

As a former tobacco farm, Beacon Hill is directly associated with Prince George's County's most important agricultural trend. Tobacco was the region's most important cash crop from the time of the earliest European settlement until the 1980s (MNCPPC 2010:36). Tobacco's importance to the economy and landscape cannot be overstated. Beacon Hill is located within the Weston Sasscer's Green Historic District (PG:82A-47) which is noted for concentration of former tobacco plantations and architecturally significant mansions. Most of the property was part of Weston, which was an established tobacco plantation by at least the early-18th century (Pearl 1987). When Beacon Hill was constructed in 1899, many Southern Maryland farmers were abandoning tobacco in favor of grains and market produce crops, but in southern Prince George's County, tobacco remained the dominant crop for nearly another century (MNCPPC: 2008:56).

The farm's three tobacco barns are the most relevant artifacts of the association with tobacco production. Two date to the first half of the 19th century. While altered, they are significant for their age, traditional framing methods and particularly the use of tilted false plate eave construction. This early roof feature is unique to Chesapeake Tidewater area framing and rarely seen after the first quarter of the 19th century (Graham 2003:179 and Thursby and Schomig 2008:E49). The third barn appears to date to the first quarter of the 20th century and with its drive-through center aisle and light-dimension framing illustrates the new reliance on gas-powered machinery and modern building methods and materials.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 6

Tobacco is notorious as a very labor-intensive crop. Until their destruction the tenant house complex and former slave quarter reflected the necessary adaptations of the Post Civil War transition from a slave-based labor force to one relying on paid and tenant labor. The loss of these resources is unfortunate, but Beacon Hills' surviving barns and field pattern illustrate the farm's relationship with the region's most historically important agricultural theme.

Criterion B (Person):

Beacon Hill is eligible for listing under Criterion B as the life-long residence of Judge Charles Clagett Marbury. As previously discussed, Marbury had a nearly 10 year career serving the local interests of his constituents as a State Delegate and Senator from the 27th Election District. In 1941 Marbury left elected office following his appointment as a State Circuit Court Judge.

It was in the judicial sphere where Judge Marbury made his most important contributions. His legal legacy is important at the local and state levels, with implications extending to the national sphere. His former colleagues credited him with helping to force the creation of the Fourth Appellate District, which secured Southern Maryland's representation on the Court of Appeals. He was subsequently appointed to this judgeship and his rulings in the 60s and 70s challenged racial barriers institutionalized in the legal system. Marbury made his most noted ruling in *Yopps v. State*. This 1962 precedent-setting decision involved the issue of a defendant's Constitutional right to be heard through legal council in summation at a nonjury criminal trial. Later that year, his decision was used as precedent in arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Herring v. New York* (Court of Appeals: 1991).

Criterion C (Design/Construction):

Beacon Hill is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C: Design/Construction. It possesses distinctive characteristics of the Colonial Revival style; represents the variation of features associated with the style; and illustrates the transition of architectural design taking place at the opening of the 20th century. Finally it is important for its association with a recognized local builder and having a fixed construction date. This information adds to the body of knowledge about local building practices in rural Prince George's County in the late 19th century.

Built in 1899, Beacon Hill is good local example of a turn-of-the-20th-century Colonial Revival style house. It is a variation of a Colonial Revival subtype known as the Classic Box, which is characterized by a hip (or gable) roof and one-story porch. The Classic Box variant, sometimes more descriptively termed the Hipped-Roof-With-Full-Width-Porch form, was most popular between 1890 and 1920. The façade's pedimented cross gable also references the Centered Gable Colonial Revival subtype, though Beacon Hill lacks the projecting entry pavilion that characterizes true examples of that variant (McAlester and McAlester 1991:331). Additional defining Colonial Revival style features are the overhanging boxed eaves, dentilated cornice, prominent frieze, and evenly spaced, double-hung sash windows.

Beacon Hill resembles other significant rural Prince George's County dwellings. Its closest antecedent is Ellerslie (PG: 82B-34), the Colonial Revival style dwelling on which it was modeled (Pearl 1986).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 7

Ellerslie, was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in 1997, but was subsequently destroyed by fire. Beacon Hill's hip-roof with projecting cross gables, German siding, and impressive chimney stacks are also reminiscent of the nearby John H. Traband House (PG:79-21). The Traband House was built between 1895 and 1897 for a local businessman and is listed on the National Register under Criterion C. Similarities between the Traband House and Beacon Hill are not surprising as both were built by C. Wesley Cranford.

While Beacon Hill clearly displays defining characteristics of the Colonial Revival style, it is also notable for embodying subtle transitional elements that reference the then still popular Queen Anne style and also looks forward to the emerging American Four Square form. For example, when present, porches associated with Colonial Revival styles houses typically terminate at the corners of the facade, but the Beacon Hill porch wraps around on the southwest corner in a fashion typical of Queen Anne style examples. In addition, the one-story diagonal projecting corner bay is reminiscent of Queen Anne style corners towers. Additional Queen Anne style affinities include decorative shingles in the cross gables, massive chimneys and the compound and irregular floor plan.

If one disregards the projecting side gables and 1st-story diagonal bay, the remaining cubed shaped and hip-roof mass also resembles that of the then emerging American Four Square house. This type of dwelling developed in the last decade of the 19th century and remained popular through the 1920s. Stylistic detailing applied to Four Square houses was derived from several styles, with the Colonial Revival being one of the most popular choices (Lanier and Herman 1997).

Criterion D:

There is no reason to believe buildings associated with Beacon Hill have the potential to yield information important in prehistory or history. James Gibb carried out a Phase I intensive archaeology survey of the property in 2005 at the request of Prince George's County in conjunction with the proposed subdivision. He did not recommend further testing (Gibb: 2005:58)

Integrity

Beacon Hill retains its historic integrity and is quite able to convey its historic significance. It possesses integrity of Location, Design, Setting, Workmanship, Feeling and Association. Material integrity, particularly to the dwelling's interior, was adversely impacted by the fire, but some interior historic fabric remains in situ. The house is undergoing a quality restoration and will retain its historic identity.

Period of Significance

Beacon Hill is significant for the period 1899 to 1991. This date range represents the initial construction date and terminates with Judge Marbury's death.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 8

Resource Count

Total resources = 8 Contributing = 6 (1 dwelling and 5 secondary structures) Noncontributing= 2

Boundaries

The house is associated with a 7-acre parcel (tax map 101 parcel 132). The outbuildings are spread across what is identified on Figure 2 as parcel 131. These two combined parcels represent the historic environmental setting and are the recommended boundary. Since the printing of the tax map in 2008 the property parcel 131 was subdivided into approximately 50 lots approved for single-family residential development. If development takes place the recommended boundaries would be reduced to the house lot on parcel 132 (Figure 2).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 9

References Cited:

Clagett, Brice McAdoo Clagett

1963 *Three Generations of Clagetts in Georgetown and Washington, 1751-1860*. Historical Society of Washington, DC.

Gibb, James A.

2005 *A Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Beacon Hill Subdivision, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland Subdivision #4-04181 DRAFT*, Submitted to Marrick Properties, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

PG Atlas

Prince George's County GIS system. Tax and subdivision maps retrieved from <http://www.pgatlas.com/pgatlas> on April 5, 2010.

Lanier, Gabrielle and Bernard L. Herman

1997 *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Baltimore, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia, and Less McAlester

1991 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knoph. New York, New York.

Maryland Court of Appeals

1991 "In Memoriam: Honorable Charles C. Marbury". Maryland Reports. Vol. 324, pp. 41-46. Annapolis, Maryland.

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

2006 *Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites: Prince George's County, Maryland*. Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

2009 *Antebellum Plantations in Prince George's County, Maryland. A Historic Context and Research Guide*. Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Pearl, Susan

1986 *Beacon Hill*. Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (PG:82A-37). On file at Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland.
1991.

1987 Weston. Maryland Historical Trust/National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, PG:82A-7. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 10

Tamburrino, Tim

1998 Weston-Sasscer's Green Historic District. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form (PG82A-47). On file at Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland.

U.S. Census Bureau

1900 Twelfth Census of the United States, Melwood, 15th Election District, Prince George's County, Maryland. Retrieved April 18, 2010 from http://search.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=View&r=an&dbid=7602&iid=004120211_00674&fn=Mars hall.

Thursby, Lori and Carrie

2008 *Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties DRAFT*. A National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. TEC Inc., Annapolis, Maryland. Submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

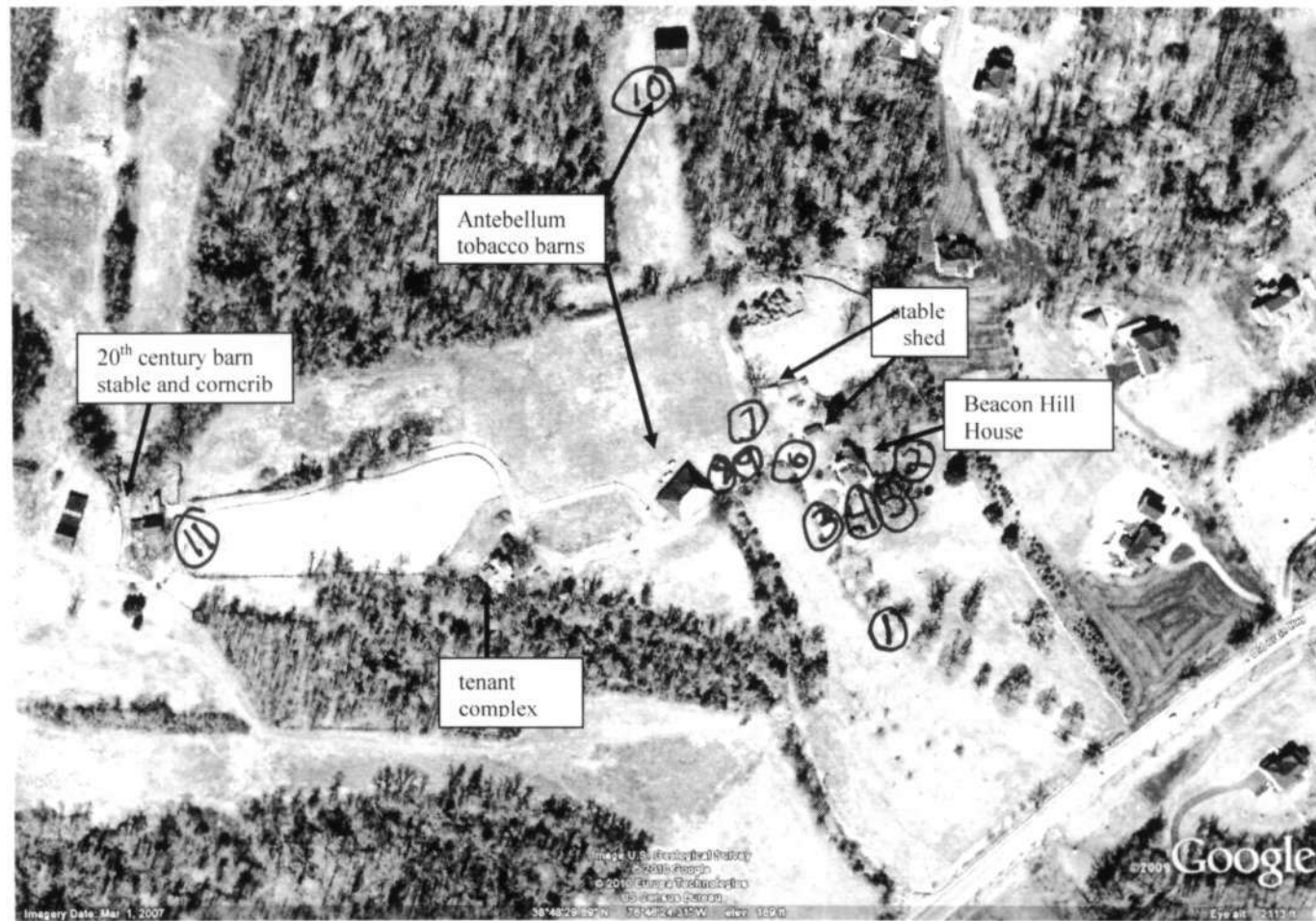
Uunila, Kirsti

2010 Personal E-mail Communication, April 4, 2010, from Kirsti Uunila, Calvert County Historic Preservation Planner, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Prepared by: Sherri Marsh Johns

Date Prepared: May 1, 2010





PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION MAP

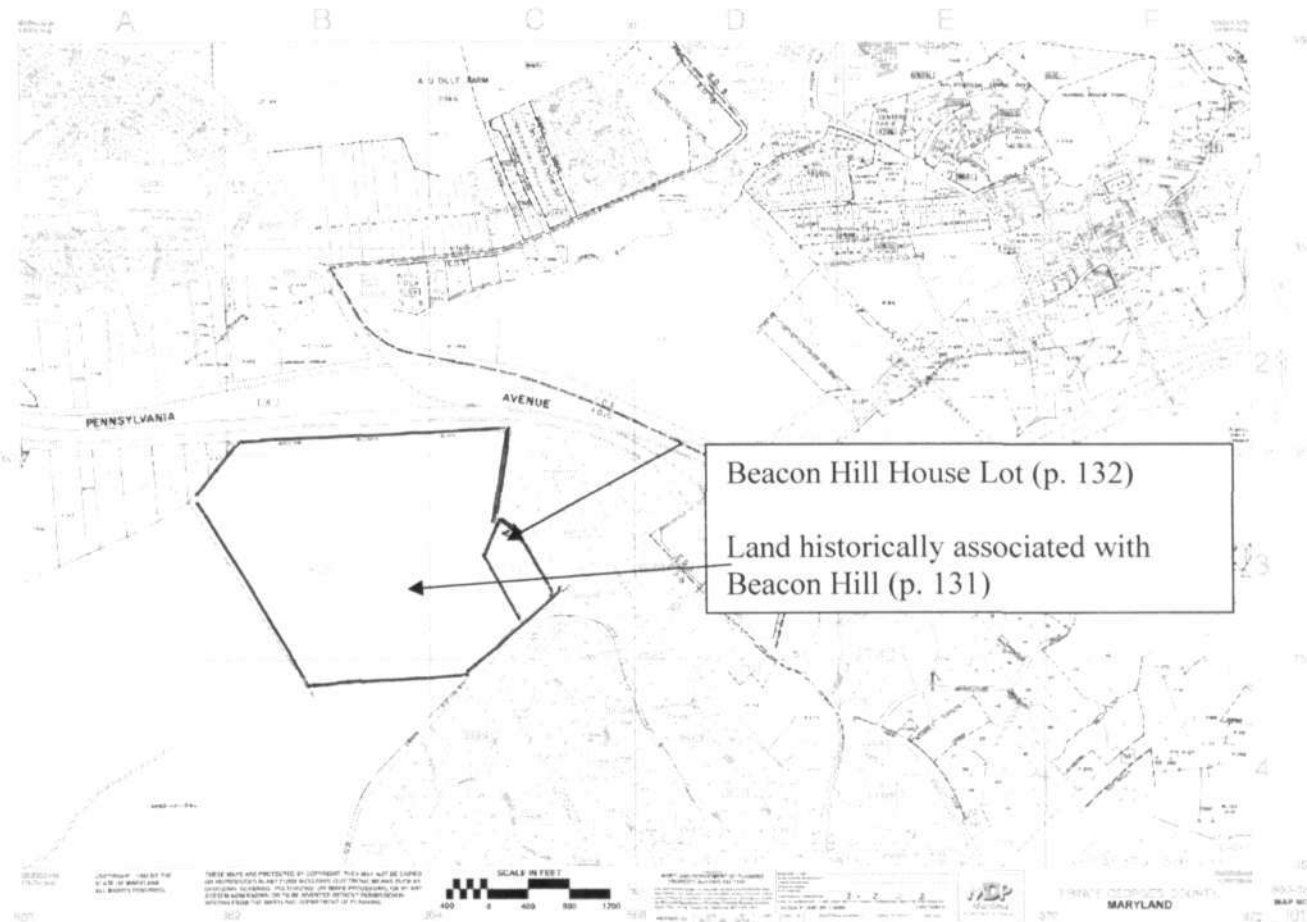


Figure 2: Proposed boundaries consist of the house lot on parcel 132 and the associated property on parcel 132.
Source: Maryland Department of Planning, Tax Map 101 (2008).

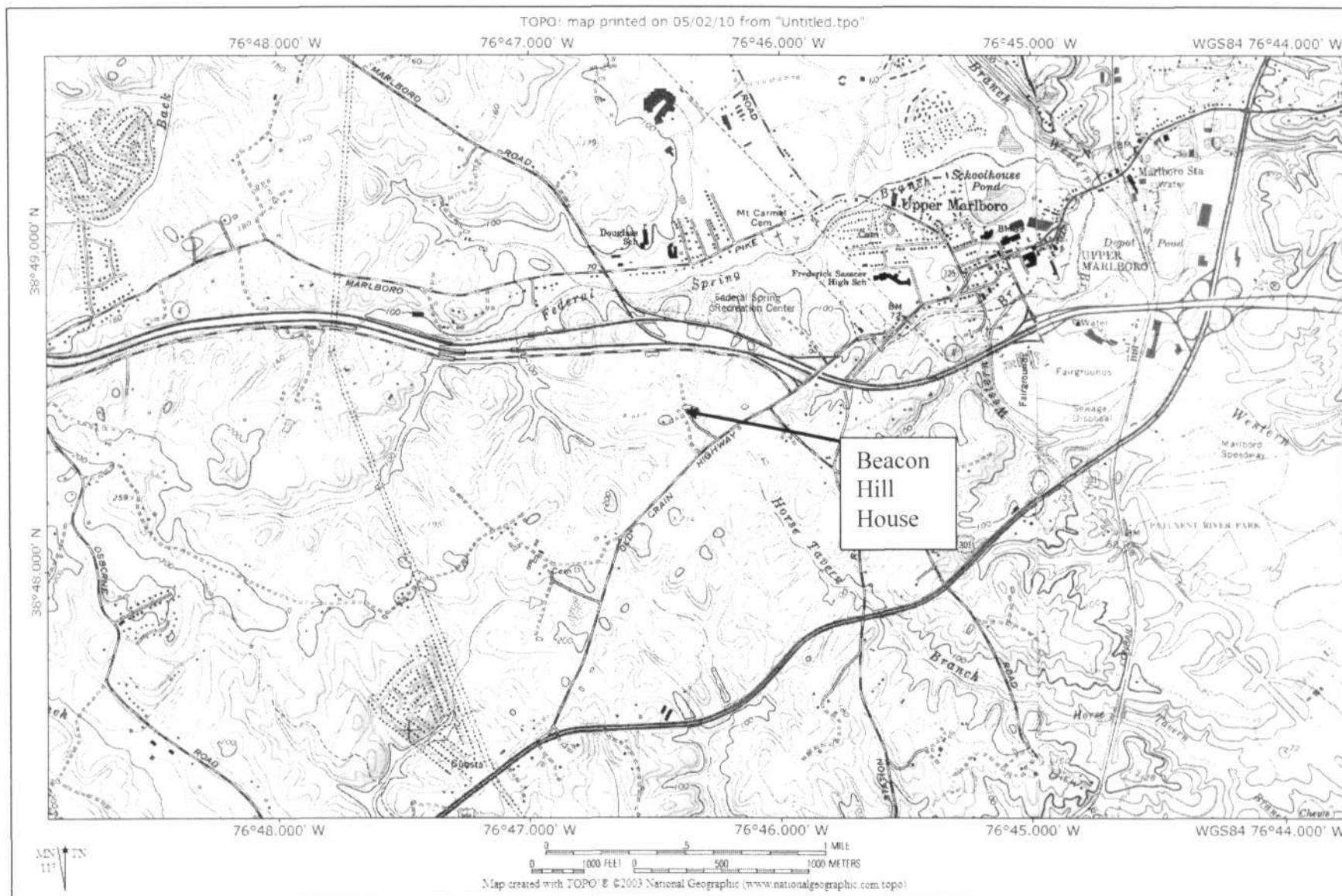
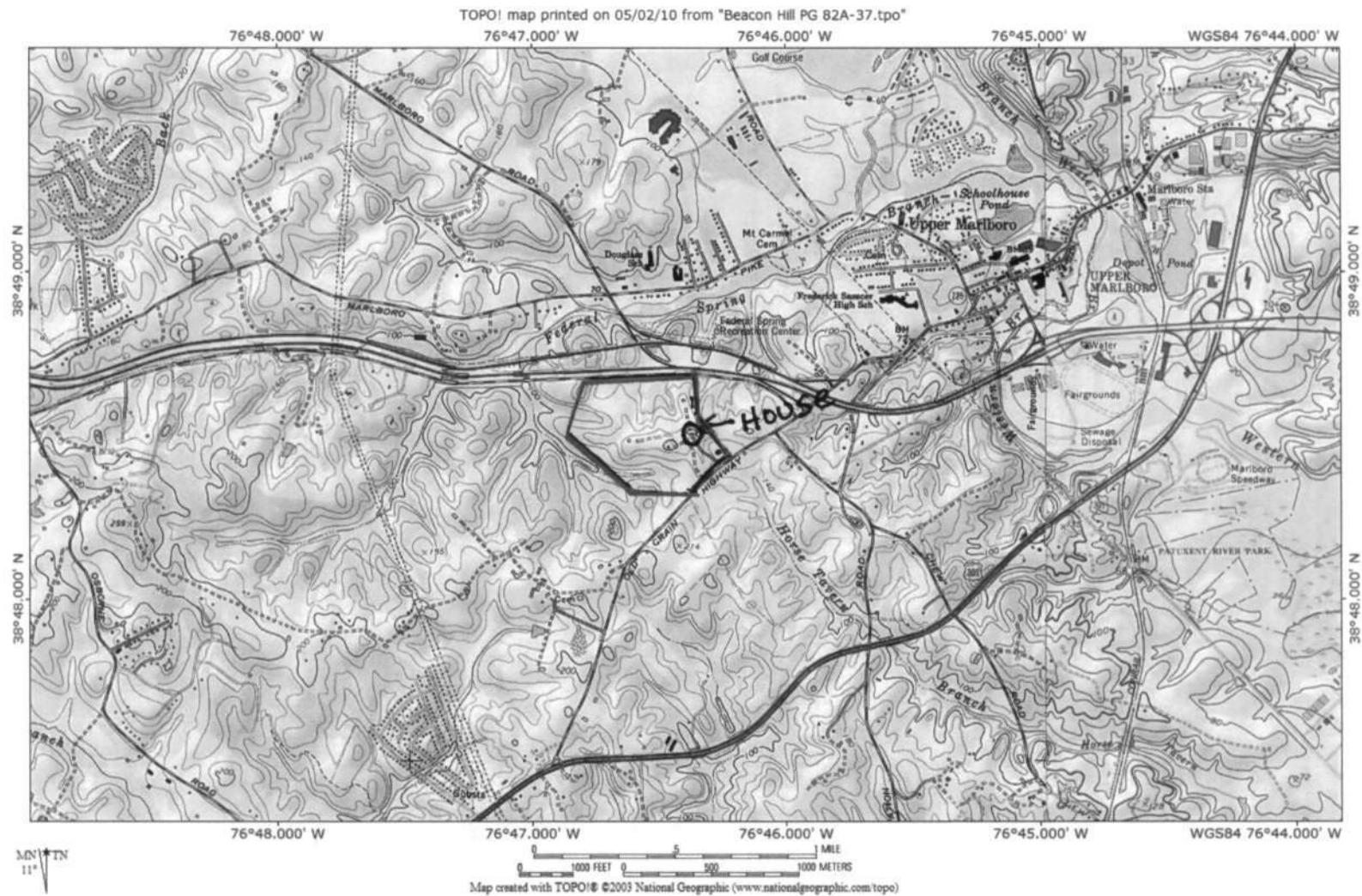


Figure 3: USGS Map Quad except Upper Marlboro Quad showing location of Beacon Hill (PG:82A-37).

Beacon Hill (PG-82A-37) Boundary Map: boundaries correspond with Tax Map 110 Parcels 131 and 132.
 Except: USGS Quad Upper Marlboro





PG-82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Crain Highway
Prince George's Co., MD

by Sherri Johns April 2010

Neg @ MD SHPO

view from farm lane looking
North

1 of ~~10~~ 11



PG-82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Cram Highway

Prince George's Co, MD

by Sherr, Johns, April 2010

Neg @ MD SHPO

Camera facing NW

2 of ~~10~~ 11



PG 82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Crain Highway

Prince Georges Co, MD

by Sherril Johns, April 2010

Weg@ MD SHPO

Camera facing North

3 of 10 11



PG 82A-37

Beacon Hill, old Crain Hwy
Prince Georges Co., MD

by Sherri Johns, April 2010

Neg@MD SHPO

Parlor looking towards Dining Room
4 of ~~16~~ 11



PG 82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Crain Hwy

Prince George's Co., MD

by Sherr. Johns, April 2010

neg @ MD SHPO

Stair

5 of ~~10~~ 11



PG 82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Crain Highway

Prince George's Co., MD

by Sherri Johns, April 2010

Neg @ MD SHPD

Outbuilding near house

4 of ~~10~~ 11



PG-82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Crain Highway

Prince George's CO, MD

by Sherri Johns, April 2010

Neg @ MD SHPU

stable near house

7 of ~~16~~ 11



PG 82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Crain Highway

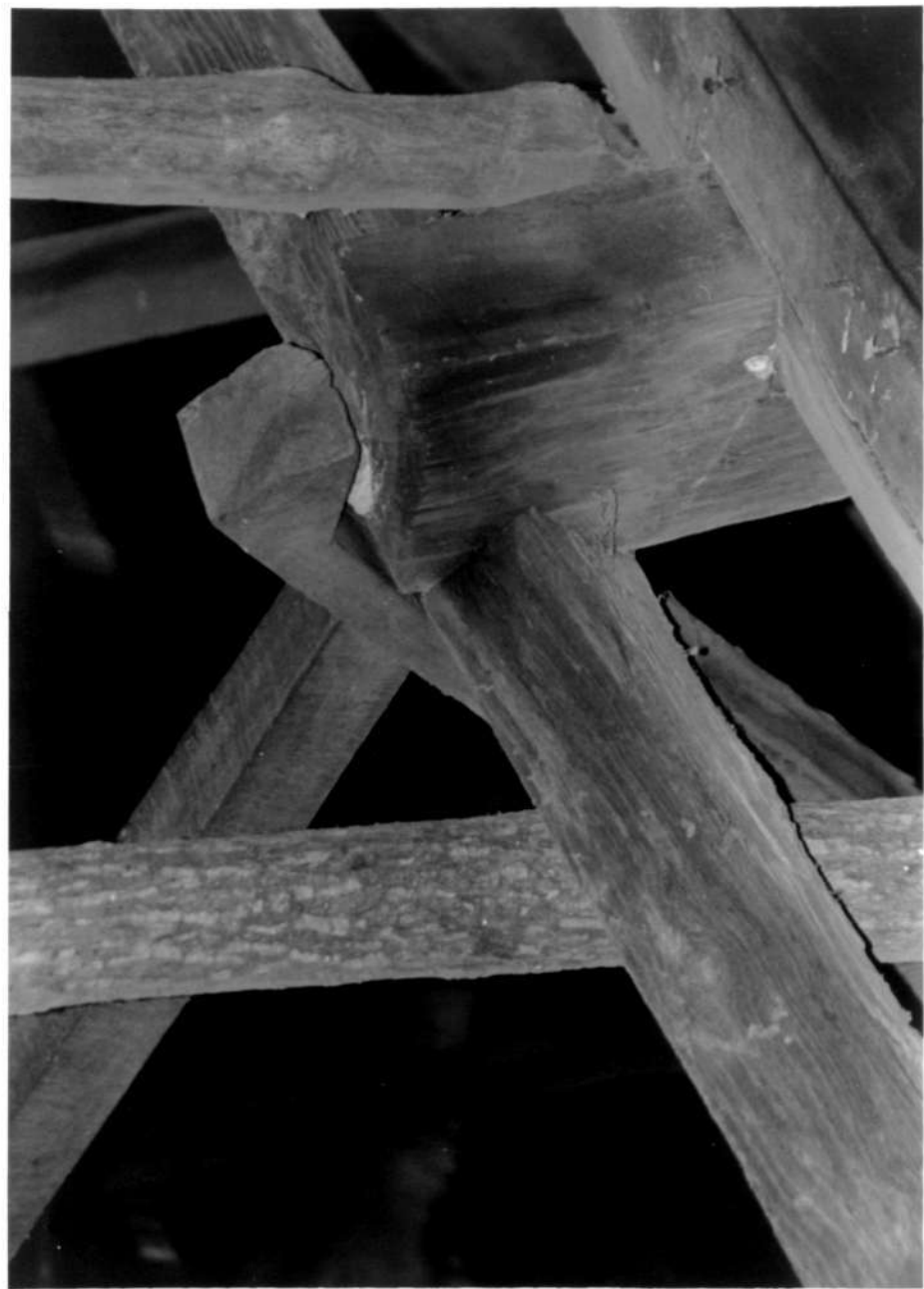
Prince George's Co., MD

by Sherri Johns, April 2014

Neg @ MD SHPO

Antebellum Tobacco Barn #1

8 of 10 11



PG 82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Crain Highway

Prince George's Co., MD

by Sherril Johns, April 2010

neg @ MD SHPO

Tilted false plate detail

9010 11





PG 82A-37

Beacon Hill, old Grain Highway

Prince Georges Co., MD

by Sherri Johns, April 2010

neg @ MD SAPO

Antebellum Tobacco Barn #2

with 20th C. Siding

10 of 11



PG 82A-37

Beacon Hill, Old Crain Highway

Prince George's Co., MD

by Sherril Johns, April 2010

neg @ MD SHPO

Animal barn w/ corn crib

in distance

11 of 11

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

PG: 82A-37

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: ~~PG# 82A-00-37~~ Building Date: 1899

Building Name: Beacon Hill

Location: 5905 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

Beacon Hill (Marbury Heights) is a large frame farmhouse with hip and gable roof, in Colonial Revival style. The house consists of a hip-roof main block, with crossgables projecting to east and west; a gable-roof kitchen wing extends to the rear. The main block is two-and-one-half-stories, roughly square, three-by-three-bays. Entrance is in the first bay of the main south facade. Set diagonally in the southeast corner is a one-story rectangular projecting bay. A one-story hip-roof porch shelters the south facade, including the corner bay, and wraps around the east facade as far as the crossgable. Centered in the south facade at third level is a pedimented cross gable. The lines of this basic foursquare plan are varied by the shallow cross-gable wings which project to east and west. Extending north from the main block is a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing, two bays by one bay. Three tall corbelled brick chimneys rise from the roof of the main block; a fourth is located at the ridge of the kitchen wing.

Significance

Beacon Hill is a fine example of a turn-of-the-century Colonial Revival house. It was built in 1899 by Alexander Marshall Marbury on a prominent site a mile south of Upper Marlboro. Marbury contracted with a local carpenter, B. Wesley Cranford, to build a house similar to Ellerslie, which had in 1895 been built for Judge Richard B. B. Chew. The new house was a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture, with fully pedimented gable ends and dentilled cornices. Its lines were varied from the popular Foursquare plan by shallow projecting crossgables, and by its hip and gable roof. Marbury called his new house "Marbury Heights." The property passed, after the death of Alexander Marshall Marbury in 1938, to his son, Charles Clagett Marbury, and has since that time been called Beacon Hill. Charles Marbury had a distinguished political and judicial career, serving four sessions in the Maryland House of Delegates, and two in the Maryland Senate; he served as a Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit and of the Court of Appeals. Beacon Hill is a distinctive and somewhat unusual example of a locally built Colonial Revival style dwelling, and is a prominent landmark on the old road south of Upper Marlboro.

Acreage: 7.05 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Marbury Heights

and/or common Beacon Hill

2. Location

street & number 5905 Old Crain Highway

☐ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 5

state Maryland

county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Virginia and Dean Garretson

street & number P. O. Box 1058

telephone no.: 301-627-2843

city, town Upper Marlboro

state and zip code 20773-1058

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

liber 8822

street & number Main Street

folio 500

city, town Upper Marlboro

state MD 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1992

☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, c/o M-NCPPC Plg Dept

city, town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. PG 82A-00-37
PG: 82A-37

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Beacon Hill (Marbury Heights) is a large frame farmhouse with hip and gable roof, Colonial Revival in style and in a form evolving into the popular Foursquare. It stands in a commanding position overlooking Old Crain Highway just southwest of Upper Marlboro.

The house consists of a hip-roof main block, with cross gables projecting to east and west; a gable-roof kitchen wing extends to the rear. The main block is two-and-one-half stories, roughly square, three bays by three bays. Entrance is in the first bay of the main south facade, through a door with a single-pane transom. Set diagonally in the southeast corner is a one-story rectangular projecting bay; there is a window in each of the three faces of this projecting bay. A one-story hip-roof porch shelters the south facade, including the corner bay, and wraps around the east facade as far as the crossgable. The porch is supported by chamfered posts with molded capitals, and it rests on brick piers infilled with lattice. The porch has a dentilled boxed cornice, and its roof is covered with standing seam metal painted green; the easterly section of the porch is screen-enclosed.

Centered in the south facade at third level is a pedimented cross gable; it encloses a four-section bulls-eye window, and its raking cornices are boxed and dentilled.

The lines of this basic foursquare plan are varied by the shallow crossgables which project to east and west. These two-story one-bay crossgables have pedimented gable ends, the pediments defined by dentilled cornices. There is no fenestration in either tympanum.

The house is covered with white aluminum siding, applied over the original German siding in the 1950s. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash, and have green louvered shutters; the surrounds are covered by the new siding. The roof is covered with dark asphalt shingle. Cornices are boxed, with dentils which are original to the construction and unaffected by the aluminum siding; there is a plain board frieze below. A gable dormer pierces the north plane of the west cross-gable roof. It has boxed molded cornice, and contains a small 6/6 window.

Extending north from the main block is a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing, two bays by one bay. It has a rear entrance in the north gable end, sheltered by a screen-enclosed shed-roof entry porch which rests on brick piers. The boxed cornice of the wing has crown molding but no dentils, and is returned at the north gable end.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

PG: 82A-37
Survey No. ~~PG 82A-00-37~~
Section 7 Page 2

Three tall corbelled brick chimneys rise from the roof of the main block; a fourth is located at the ridge of the kitchen wing.

In the northwest interior corner formed by the main block and kitchen wing, a rear (north) door, with single-pane transom, leads into the rear hall. The entrance is sheltered by a small shed-roof entry porch which supports a railed balcony at second story level. West of this, a second-story room is supported on plain square posts; this second-story room was not part of the original design of the house, but was added as a maid/nurse's room at the time of the original construction.

There is a gable-roof storage shed north of the house. It is three bays wide, with horizontal board siding; it has 6/6 windows and its overhanging eaves are punctuated with exposed rafter ends. Entry in the center of the south facade is through a batten door.

The south entrance leads into an open stairhall which takes up the southwest quarter of the house. The open-string stair rises along the west exterior wall to a landing, turns 90 degrees and rises to the second story. There is a fluted wood newel, square in section, with molded cap; the balusters are turned and the spandrel is sheathed with vertical beaded wainscoting. There is a fireplace in the east wall of the stairhall; the wood mantel has a plain frieze framed by slim colonettes with Ionic volutes. Mantels in the other spaces of the first story have similar colonial Revival details.

The two east spaces of the first story (parlor to the south, dining room to the north) are connected by sliding pocket doors. Trim at doors and windows are prototypical of the turn of the century: a central convex molding framed by projecting beaded bands, and concentric bullseye corner blocks. The narrow floorboards are original. There was originally a window in the easternmost bay of the south wall of the dining room; it was subsequently extended to form a door, which led out to the screen-enclosed easterly section of the wraparound porch.

The house and grounds are approached from Old Crain Highway by an entry lane lined with sugar maples. The lane leads northward up the hill to the immediate grounds of the house, and forms a circle to the west of the house. (Unpaved, the lane then bends to the west and leads toward a large tobacco barn, and on to an older frame dwelling, now occupied by tenants.) A very large beech tree stands almost directly south of the principal south entrance to the house. To the west of the house,

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

PG: 82A-37
Survey No. PG 82A-00-37
Section 7 Page 3

near the circle drive, is a large sycamore, and to the east is a County Champion larch tree. There is a symmetrical grove of 12 mature chestnut trees planted northeast of the house. The front fields on the slope between the house and Old Crain Highway are planted in a rotating series of crops; the land currently in field is bounded on the east by a board fence, and on the west by a deeply-cut unpaved farm lane.

.....

Outside of the proposed Environmental Setting, the unpaved farm lane bends to the west from the immediate grounds of the house. Circa 600 feet west of the house, on the adjoining farm parcel, is a large tobacco barn which predates the house; it has a gable-on-hip roof, and vertical board siding. Visible in the interior of this barn are hand-hewn beams, joined by pegs with mortise and tenon, as well as new material. Opening is in the south, and the roof is covered with corrugated metal.

Another old farm lane leads north from the house. East of this lane are the foundations of a one-and-one-half-story gable-roof cabin which is believed to have been built as a slave quarter. In badly deteriorated condition, the building was demolished within the last ten years. Entrance to the cabin was centered in the east facade, and there was one window opening in the west facade. The building had board-and-batten siding over log, with wide riven horizontal boards at second level in the gable ends; it had a boxed cornice, and heavy hand-hewn sill. In the northwest corner was a small boxed stair.

Several hundred feet farther along the farm lane is another large tobacco barn. This north barn appears to be newer than the other; it has a low pitched gable roof, and vertical board siding. Visible on the interior are hand-hewn joists and sill, but the superstructure appears to have been rebuilt of new materials.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG 82A-00-37

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1899 Builder/Architect B. Wesley Cranford

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Beacon Hill (Marbury Heights) is a fine example of a turn-of-the-century Colonial Revival house. It was built in 1899 by Alexander Marshall Marbury on a prominent site a mile south of Upper Marlboro.

Marbury's house was built on part of the old David Craufurd farm, Kingston, which adjoined the Town of Upper Marlboro on the southwest. Much of this land had been acquired by Thomas (VI) Clagett of Weston, and his son, Charles Clagett, in trust for members of their family. In 1898, Alexander Marshall Marbury of "Wyoming" (Prince George's County) purchased from the Clagetts a 187-acre portion of the Craufurd farm; at the same time Marbury exchanged with Dr. Frederick Sasscer parts of the same farm, Sasscer receiving 22 acres on the Federal Spring Branch, and Marbury receiving five acres particularly desirable for a dwelling site.¹

On this site, Marbury built his new home in 1899. He contracted with local carpenter, B. Wesley Cranford,² to build a house somewhat similar to Ellerslie, which had in 1895 been built for Judge Richard B. B. Chew (cf. 82A-34). The *Prince George's Enquirer*, printed in Upper Marlboro, recorded in March 1899 that "Messrs. Benjamin Cranford and Son, contractors and builders, have received a contract for building a residence for Mr. A. M. Marbury on the farm which he recently purchased near this town. The work commenced

¹ Prince George's County Deeds, JB#4:29, 31; Prince George's County Equity #2520.

² See *Prince George's Enquirer*, 16 September 1898, 24 March 1899.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

PG: 82A-37
Survey No. ~~PG 82A-00-37~~
Section 8 Page 2

yesterday."³

Work, however, apparently did not immediately commence, for the *Prince George's Enquirer* reported in September that "In the next few weeks, Mr. Marshall Marbury will commence the erection of a beautiful home near here on the farm which he recently purchased."⁴ While the house was under construction, the Marburys lived in the Reuben Bunnell house next to Trinity Church in Upper Marlboro.⁵

The new house was completed and the Marbury family moved in at the beginning of November 1899. The Marburys' house was a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture, with fully pedimented gable ends and dentilled cornices. Its lines were varied from the popular Foursquare plan by shallow projecting crossgables, and by its hip and gable roof. The house stood in a commanding position on a hill overlooking the old road between Upper Marlboro and Weston, close to much older farm buildings from the Craufurd and Clagett periods of ownership. Marbury called his new house "Marbury Heights." Somewhat less ornate than the Chew house of a few years earlier, Marbury's house did include several similar features, such as the fireplace in the stairhall, pocket doors between parlors, nearly identical interior architrave trim, and Classical Revival wood mantels.⁶

Marbury Heights passed, after the death of Alexander Marshall Marbury in 1938, to his son, Charles Clagett Marbury, and has since that time been called Beacon Hill. Charles Marbury has had a distinguished political and judicial career, serving four sessions in the Maryland House of Delegates, and two in the Maryland Senate. He served as a Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit, and of the

³ *Prince George's Enquirer*, 24 March 1899, "Local and Personal."

⁴ *Prince George's Enquirer*, 18 September 1899, "Local and Personal"

⁵ Cf. Reuben Bunnell House (Documented Property #79-19-54); interview with Judge Charles C. Marbury, spring 1986, and with Virginia Garretson, fall 1999.

⁶ Bowie, E.G., *Across the Years in Prince George's County*, p. 556; interview with Judge Charles C. Marbury, spring 1986, and with Virginia Garretson, fall 1999. See also Inventory form for Ellerslie (Historic Site #82A-34).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

PG: 82A-37
Survey No. PG 82A-00-37
Section 8 Page 3

Court of Appeals.⁷ Beacon Hill was Judge Marbury's home up to the time of his death in 1991, and has since that time been the home of his descendants. It is a distinctive and somewhat unusual example of locally built Colonial Revival style dwelling, and is a prominent landmark on the old road south of Upper Marlboro.

⁷ Bowie, E.G. *op.cit.*, p. 556; interview with Judge Marbury, spring 1986, and with Virginia Garretson, fall 1999; Prince George's County Estate files #5737, #6198; Prince George's County Deeds #188:54, #517:244.

9. Major Bibliographical References

PG: 82A-37
Survey No. PG-82A-00-37

Cf. Notes, item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7.05 acres Tax Map 101, parcel 132
Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Section F Quadrangle scale _____
UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian
organization Historic Preservation Commission date September 1986/Sept 1999
c/o Community Planning Div, M-NCPPC
street & number 14741 Gov Oden Bowie Dr, 4th fl telephone 301-952-3521
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #82A-37 Building Date: 1898
Building Name: Beacon Hill
Location: 5905 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

Beacon Hill (Marbury Heights) is a large frame farmhouse with hip and gable roof, a complex version of the "Classic Box" plan of Colonial Revival architecture. The house consists of a hip-roof main block, with cross gables projecting to east and west; a gable-roof kitchen wing extends to the rear. The main block is two-and-one-half-stories, roughly square, three-by-three-bays. Entrance is in the first bay of the main south facade, through a door with a single-pane transom. Set diagonally in the southeast corner is a one-story rectangular projecting bay. A one-story hip-roof porch shelters the south facade, including the corner bay, and wraps around the east facade as far as the cross gable. The porch is supported by chamfered posts with molded capitals, and it rests on brick piers infilled with lattice. Centered in the south facade at third level is a pedimented cross gable. The lines of this basic four-square plan are varied by the shallow cross-gable wings which project to east and west. A gable dormer pierces the north plane of the west cross-gable roof. Extending north from the main block is a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing, two bays by one bay. Three tall corbelled brick chimneys rise from the roof of the main block; a fourth is located at the ridge of the kitchen wing. Several additions have been constructed in the northwest interior corner formed by the main block and kitchen wing.

Significance

Beacon Hill (Marbury Heights) is a fine example of a turn-of-the-century Colonial Revival house, a complex version of the "Classic Box" style of dwelling. It was built in 1898 by Alexander Marshall Marbury on a prominent site a mile south of Upper Marlboro. The house at Beacon Hill was built on part of the old David Craufurd farm, Kingston, which adjoined the Town of Upper Marlboro on the southwest. Marbury contracted with a local carpenter, B. Wesley Cranford, to build a house similar to Ellerslie, which had in 1895 been built for Judge Richard B. B. Chew. The new house, completed in 1898, was a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture, with fully pedimented gable ends and dentilled cornices. Its lines were varied from the soon-to-be-popular Foursquare plan by shallow projecting cross-gable wings, and by its hip and gable roof. Marbury called his new house "Marbury Heights." Marbury Heights passed, after the death of Alexander Marshall Marbury in 1938, to his son, Charles Clagett Marbury, and has since that time been called Beacon Hill. Charles Marbury had a distinguished political and judicial career, serving four sessions in the Maryland House of Delegates, and two in the Maryland Senate. For 15 years, he served as a Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit. Beacon Hill is a distinctive and somewhat unusual example of a locally built Colonial Revival style dwelling, and is a prominent landmark on the old road south of Upper Marlboro.

Acreage: 125.11 acres

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Marbury Heights

and/or common Beacon Hill

2. Location

street & number 5905 Old Crain Highway ☐ not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro, ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Kathryn Marbury

street & number 5905 Old Crain Highway telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code MD. 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's Courthouse liber 6005

street & number Main Street folio 774

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #82A-37

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Beacon Hill (Marbury Heights) is a large frame farmhouse with hip and gable roof, a complex version of the "Classic Box" plan of Colonial Revival architecture. It stands in a commanding position overlooking Old Crain Highway just southwest of Upper Marlboro.

The house consists of a hip-roof main block, with cross gables projecting to east and west; a gable-roof kitchen wing extends to the rear. The main block is two-and-one-half-stories, roughly square, three bays by three bays. Entrance is in the first bay of the main south facade, through a door with a single-pane transom. Set diagonally in the southeast corner is a one-story rectangular projecting bay; there is a window in each of the three faces of this projecting bay. A one-story hip-roof porch shelters the south facade, including the corner bay, and wraps around the east facade as far as the cross gable. The porch is supported by chamfered posts with molded capitals, and it rests on brick piers infilled with lattice. The porch has a dentilled boxed cornice, and its roof is covered with standing seam metal painted green; the easterly section of the porch is screen-enclosed.

Centered in the south facade at third level is a pedimented cross gable; it encloses a four-section bulls-eye window, and its raking cornices are boxed and dentilled.

The lines of this basic four-square plan are varied by the shallow cross-gable wings which project to east and west. These two-story one-bay wings have pedimented gable ends, the pediments defined by dentilled cornices. There is no fenestration in either tympanum.

The house is covered with white aluminum siding. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash, and have green louvered shutters; the surrounds are covered by the new siding. The roof is covered with dark asphalt shingle. Cornices are boxed with dentils, and there is a plain board frieze below. A gable dormer pierces the north plane of the west cross-gable roof. It has boxed molded cornice, and contains a small 6/6 window.

Extending north from the main block is a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing, two bays by one bay. It has a rear entrance in the north gable end, sheltered by a screen-enclosed shed-roof entry porch which rests on brick piers. The boxed cornice of the wing has crown molding but no dentils, and is returned at the north gable end.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #82A-37

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1898 Builder/Architect B. Wesley Cranford

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Beacon Hill (Marbury Heights) is a fine example of a turn-of-the-century Colonial Revival house, a complex version of the "Classic Box" style of dwelling. It was built in 1898 by Alexander Marshall Marbury on a prominent site a mile south of Upper Marlboro.

The house at Beacon Hill was built on part of the old David Craufurd farm, Kingston, which adjoined the Town of Upper Marlboro on the southwest. Much of this land had been acquired by Thomas (VI) Clagett of Weston, and his son, Charles Clagett, in trust for members of their family. In 1898, Alexander Marshall Marbury of "Wyoming" (Prince George's County) purchased from the Clagetts a 187-acre portion of the Craufurd farm; at the same time Marbury exchanged with Dr. Frederick Sasscer parts of the same farm, Sasscer receiving 22 acres on the Federal Spring Branch, and Marbury receiving five acres particularly desirable for a dwelling site.

On this site, Marbury built his new home in 1898. He contracted with local carpenter, B. Wesley Cranford, to build a house somewhat similar to Ellerslie, which had in 1895 been built for Judge Richard B. B. Chew (cf. 82A-34). While the house was under construction, the Marburys lived in the Reuben Bunnell house next to Trinity Church.²

The new house, completed in 1898, was a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture, with fully pedimented gable ends and dentilled cornices. Its lines were varied from the soon-to-be-popular Foursquare plan by shallow projecting cross-gable wings, and by its hip and gable roof. The house stood in a commanding position on a hill overlooking the old road between Upper Marlboro and Weston, close to much older farm buildings from the Craufurd and Clagett periods of ownership. Marbury called his new house "Marbury Heights."

Marbury Heights passed, after the death of Alexander Marshall Marbury in 1938, to his son, Charles Clagett Marbury, and has since that time been called Beacon Hill. Charles Marbury has had a distinguished political and

Survey No. P.G. #82A-37

PS-2746

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. P.G. #82A-37

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

Three tall corbelled brick chimneys rise from the roof of the main block; a fourth is located at the ridge of the kitchen wing.

Several additions have been constructed in the northwest interior corner formed by the main block and kitchen wing. There is a rear (north) door, with single-pane transom, into the inner corner addition; it is sheltered by a small shed-roof entry porch which supports a railed balcony at second story level. West of this, a second story room is supported on plain square posts.

There are two outbuildings immediately north of the house. To the west is a small gable-roof garage, with vertical board siding and shed extension to the west. Next to it on the east is a gable roof storage shed. It is three bays wide, with horizontal board siding; it has 6/6 windows and its overhanging eaves are punctuated with exposed rafter ends. Entry in the center of the south facade is through a batten door.

Circa 600 feet west of the house, beside an unpaved farm lane, is a large tobacco barn which predates the house; it has a gable-on-hip roof, and vertical board siding. Visible in the interior of this barn are hand-hewn beams, joined by pegs with mortise and tenon, as well as new material. Opening is in the south, and the roof is covered with corrugated metal.

Another old farm lane leads north from the house to two more farm buildings. East of this lane is a badly deteriorated one-and-one-half-story gable roof cabin which was probably built as a slave quarter. Entrance is centered in the east facade, and there is one window opening in the west facade. The building has board-and-batten siding, with wide riven horizontal boards at second level in the gable ends; it has a boxed cornice, and heavy hand-hewn sill. In the northwest corner is a small boxed stair.

Several hundred feet farther along the farm lane is another large tobacco barn. This north barn appears to be newer than the other; it has a low pitched gable roof, and vertical board siding. Visible on the interior are hand-hewn joists and sill, but the superstructure appears to have been rebuilt of new materials.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G. #82A-37

Section 8 Page 2

judicial career, serving four sessions in the Maryland House of Delegates, and two in the Maryland Senate. For 15 years, he served as a Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit.³ Beacon Hill has been Judge Marbury's home up to the present time. It is a distinctive and somewhat unusual example of locally built Colonial Revival style dwelling, and is a prominent landmark on the old road south of Upper Marlboro.

Notes

¹ Prince George's County Deeds, JB #4:29, 31; Prince George's County Equity #2520;

² Bowie, E. G. Across the Years in Prince George's County, p. 556; interview with Judge Charles C. Marbury, spring 1986.

³ Bowie, E.G. op. cit., p. 556; interview with Judge Charles C. Marbury, spring 1986; Prince George's County Estate files #5737, #6198; Prince George's County Deeds #188:54; #517:244.

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PENNSYLVANIA

AVENUE

E.D.
E.D.15

BEANES ROAD

WILLIAM

R-A

P/O LOT 1 1.30 A

WM J DUBOST P.63

1796/491
2.35 A
P.97

PAUL
BLANK
084/434
4.64 A
P.230

KATHRYN L. MARBURY
6005/774
125 11A
P131

EDWARD F. RIVINUS
5448 / 913
38.63 A
P.9

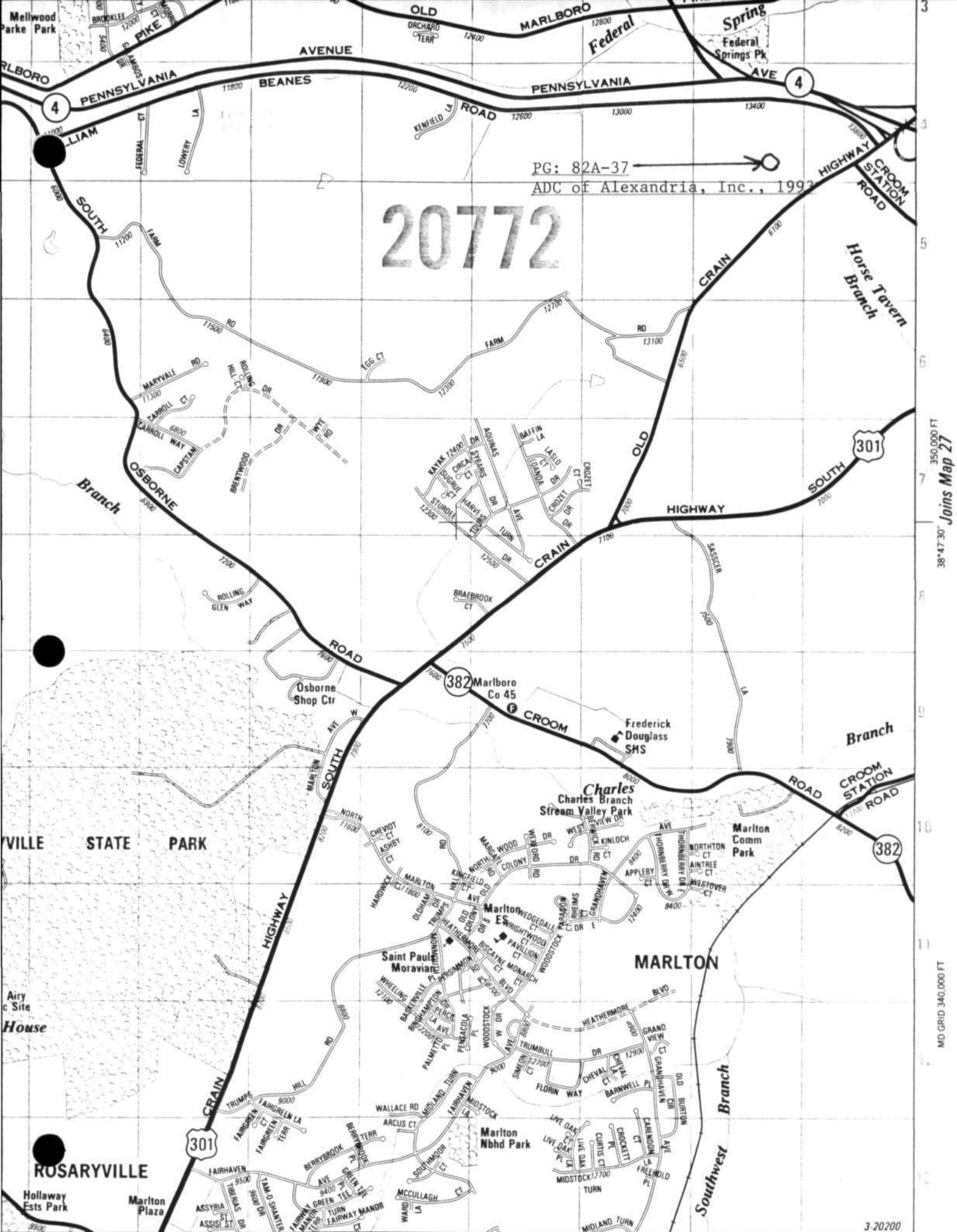
PG 82A-37 •

R-A

OLD US 301

OLD CRAIN

HWY



20772

PG: 82A-37

ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

38°47'30" 350,000 FT Joins Map 27

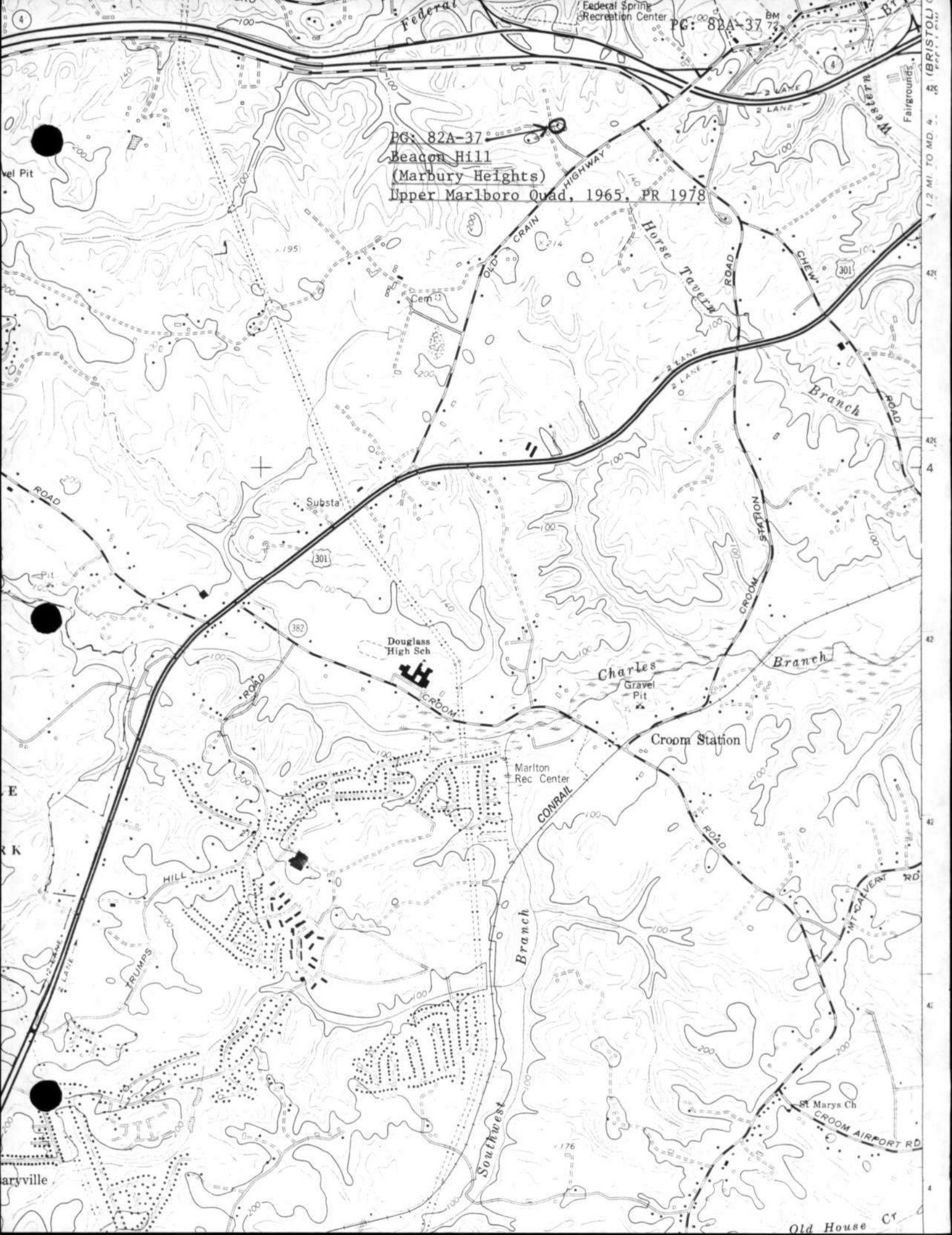
MD GRID 340,000 FT

3-20200

Joins Map 33

MD GRID 860,000 FT

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PG: 82A-37

Beacon Hill

(Marbury Heights)

Upper Marlboro Quad, 1965, PR 1978

PG: 82A-37

Federal Spring
Recreation Center

1.2 MI. TO MD. 4

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PG#82A-37

Beacon Hill
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
East elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#82A-37

Beacon Hill
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
North elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#82A-37

Beacon Hill

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1986

Barn, west elevation

Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#82A-37

Beacon Hill
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#82A-37

Beacon Hill
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#82A-37

Beacon Hill
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#82A-37

Beacon Hill

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1986

Northeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD